

Statement

Details of major changes made in customs duty rates since June, 2006 till Budget 2007-08

- (a) *Pulses*: Basic customs duty was reduced from 10% to Nil on 08.06.2006, valid upto 31.07.2007;
- (b) *Sugar*: Basic customs duty was reduced from 60% to Nil on 23.6.2006, which was valid upto 30.09.2006.
- (c) *Palm Oils*: Basic customs duty was reduced on crude/refined oils from 80%/90% to 70%/80% on 11.8.2006, and then again on 24.01.2007 from 70%/80% to 60%/67.5%. This concession is valid without any time limit. In addition, the tariff values for palm oils have been frozen at July, 2006 level.
- (d) *Sunflower oils*: Basic customs duty was reduced on crude/refined oils from 75%/85% to 65%/75 on 24.01.2007.
- (e) *Wheat*. Basic customs duty was initially reduced from 50% to 5%, which was further reduced to Nil. The exemption was valid upto 28.02.2007.
- (f) *Ferro alloys, alloy steels, non-ferrous metals, capitals goods, refractories*: From 7.5% to 5% and on project imports from 10% to 7.5% on 22.1.2007 without time limit.
- (g) *Cement*. From 12.5% to Nil on 22.1.2007 without any time limit.
- (h) *Maize*: Basic customs duty was reduced from 50% to Nil on 25.01.2007 valid upto 31.12.2007.

Committee for an Islamic Bank

†796. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision for constituting a Committee to find out the possibility of constituting an Islamic Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[6 March. 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) whether Government wants to run a parallel banking system now on religious basis in a secular country like India; and

(d) if not, justification behind taking the said decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to run a parallel banking system on religious basis.

Disbursement of agricultural credit disbursed by banks

797. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural credit disbursed by 27 commercial banks in the country has shot up substantially according to the findings of the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details of disbursement in this regard in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The agricultural credit disbursed by Public Sector Commercial Banks has increased substantially during the last three years as may be observed from the data furnished below:—

| <i>(Rs. in crores)</i> | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Year | Amount disbursed |
| 2003-04 | 42.211 |
| 2004-05 | 65,218 |
| 2005-06 | 94,278 |

Slow pace of manufacturing sector

798. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's manufacturing sector expanded as its slowest pace in the period of 5 months ending in December, 2006;